

**Office of Tree Warden, Town of Weston
56 Norfield Road
Weston, CT 06883**

June 30, 2023

Notice of Final Decision of the Tree Warden Regarding Three Stem Large Red Oak Tree Removal in the Town of Weston Right of Way at Norfield Road and Norfield Farm Lane

A virtual Public Hearing took place on Thursday June 29, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 4:44 p.m. following the June 12, 2023 Notice of Tree Removal posting on the tree. As required by Chapter 451, Section 23- 59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the hearing was called because written objections to and support for the removal were received within the 10-day notice period. In addition, the tree warden accepted other written comments through the end of the hearing. All written comments and other relevant documents, including the Tree Warden's opening and closing statements were posted on the Tree Warden page of the Town of Weston website. The purpose of the hearing was for the tree warden to explain the reasons for the removal notice and allow members of the public to ask questions and make comments. Also, a representative from Bartlett Tree Experts was present to answer questions about the firm's May 2023 risk assessment report on the tree. The hearing was legally noticed June 26, 2023 on the Weston Town Clerk's bulletin board, the Town of Weston website under Legal Notices and the Tree Warden page. The notice was also sent to interested parties. Notice was also posted June 26, 2023 on the tree and was published in The Hour of Norwalk, CT on June 26, 2023. After careful consideration and having objectively reviewed the facts and opinions presented during the hearing and documents made part of the hearing record, I have ruled the following:

Sadly, because of the tree's deteriorating condition and declining ability to support its structure even with previous intervention measures and because of an unacceptable risk of tree part and/or cable failure of this once magnificent red oak, this tree is to be removed in a safe manner under the direction of the tree warden before the end of August 2023. In the meantime, the tree warden will collect acorns and look for nearby seedlings from the tree to propagate descendants of the tree. The tree warden will also coordinate with the Board of Selectmen on other ways to appropriately memorialize the tree. This is the final decision of the Weston Tree Warden. Let it be known that Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes states: "the Tree Warden shall render his/her decision granting or denying the application, and the party aggrieved by such decision may, within ten days, appeal therefrom to the Superior Court for the judicial district within which such town or borough is located." This decision will be emailed to the Board of Selectmen, interested parties and posted on the tree before 4 p.m. July 2. Subsequently, it will also be posted on the Town Clerk's board, the town web site under Legal Notices and the Tree Warden page, and published in The Hour, Norwalk, CT.